Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user, ~~including~~comprising the steps of:

(a)   presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b)   masking the test stimulus;

(c) measuring a response from the user, the response providing information about (i) the user's perception of a characteristic of the test stimulus, and ~~together with the~~ (ii) a response time taken for the user to respond;

(d)   repeating steps (a) to (c) to develop a user profile; and

(e)   ~~assessing cognitive impairment in the user by~~ comparing the user profile with a reference profile, and thereby assessing cognitive impairment in the user.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) ~~includes~~comprises repeating steps (a) to (c) for a range of pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein step (a) ~~includes the step of~~comprises presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, ~~further including the step of~~comprising calculating, for each pre-determined test stimulus

exposure duration of step (a), a representative error rate ~~representing the~~ that represents a proportion of responses measured in step (c) which are inaccurate ~~responses for each of the pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the user profile ~~includes~~ of (d) comprises an error rate curve charting the representative error rate relative to ~~the~~ pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~ wherein~~,~~ calculating the representative error rate ~~is calculated from~~ comprises calculating a mean ~~of the~~ error ~~of each response~~ for responses at ~~the~~ each pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, further including the step of~~ claim 1, comprising calculating, for each pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration, ~~an average response time~~ a mean response time ~~for each of the pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations~~.

8. (Currently Amended) method according to claim 7, wherein the user profile ~~includes~~ of (d) comprises a response rate curve charting ~~the~~ mean response time relative to ~~the~~ pre-determined test stimulus exposure ~~durations~~ duration.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein ~~consequent presentations of a test stimulus to the user~~ repetitions of step (a) are separated by a uniform time interval.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the reference profile is generated ~~using~~from data that are selected from the group consisting of:

(a) data obtained from a reference group ~~including~~comprising cognitively normal individuals~~; or~~, and

(b) data previously generated by the user.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration is between 10 ms and 300 ms.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the user has a choice of two different responses for responding to each test stimulus.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein one of two or more different test stimuli are presented to the user in step (a).

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein each of the test stimuli are presented an equal number of times.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the test stimulus is masked by a mask that ~~includes~~comprises at least one ~~full~~filled circle or curved line.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the mask ~~is~~comprises an image ~~including~~having a plurality of ~~full~~filled circles or parts thereof.

17.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the mask is~~ is~~ comprises an image ~~including~~ having a plurality of curved lines or parts thereof.

18.   (Currently Amended) A method of assessing visual impairment of a user, ~~including~~ comprising the steps of:

(a)   presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b)   masking the test stimulus by placing a mask over or in place of the test stimulus;

(c)   measuring a response from the user, the response providing information about (i) the user's perception of specific characteristics of the test stimulus ~~together with the~~, and (ii) response time taken for the user to respond;

(d)   repeating steps (a) to (c) ~~using~~ to develop a user profile, wherein the ~~same~~ pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration ~~to develop a user profile~~ has a duration equal to the duration of the pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration of (a); and

(e)   comparing the user profile with a reference profile to assess visual impairment of the user.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method of assessing visual impairment of a user according to claim 18 wherein step (a) ~~includes the step of~~ comprises presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

20.   (Currently Amended) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user, ~~including~~ comprising the steps of:

(a)   presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b)   masking the test stimulus by placing a mask over or in place of the test stimulus;

(c)   measuring a response from the user, the response ~~including~~ comprising:

          i.   a response time; and

          ii.   <u>either</u> a correct or <u>an</u> incorrect indication of the visual test stimulus;

    (d)   repeating steps (a) to (c) to develop a user profile; and

    (e)   comparing the user profile to a reference profile to assess cognitive impairment in the user.

21.   (Currently Amended) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user <u>according to claim 20</u> wherein step (a) ~~includes the step of~~<u>comprises</u> presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

22.   (Currently Amended) A system for assessing cognitive impairment of a user, ~~including~~<u>comprising</u>:

    (a)   presentation means for presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

    (b)   mask means for masking the test stimulus after presentation of the test stimulus to the user;

    (c)   response measuring means ~~to measure the~~<u>for measuring a</u> response from the user after presentation of the visual test stimulus;

    (d)   processing means ~~to process~~<u>for processing</u> the response from the user over one or a range of pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations to develop ~~the~~<u>a</u> user profile over the range; and

    (e)   assessment means ~~to compare~~<u>for comparing</u> the user profile to a reference profile to assess cognitive impairment in the user.

23.   (Currently Amended) A system for assessing cognitive impairment of a user according to claim 22 further ~~including~~<u>comprising</u> focal point presentation means for presenting a focal point stimulus to the user.

24.   (Currently Amended) A mask for masking a̲ visual test stimulus, the mask ~~including~~ comprising an image having a plurality of filled circles or curved lines or parts thereof.

25.   (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims 1, ~~to~~ 18 and 20, wherein the user profile ~~is~~ comprises a response curve.